

**NASA Plum Brook Station Reactor Decommissioning Facility**  
**Community Relations Plan, Addendum #1**  
**April 2001**

**Section 3.0 Introduction**

Section 3.0 of the Final Community Relations Plan (dated September 1999) provides a profile of Erie County demographics and describes potential stakeholder groups that may be interested in the decommissioning of the PBS reactor facility. That section describes the overall demographics of the county and cities and towns therein, but did not go into detail to describe any particular ethnic or racial groups. In reviewing the area demographics, the only significant community - other than the predominantly Caucasian population - is the African American community. This addendum addresses that population. Seven interviews were conducted with Erie County African American residents to obtain their perspective on potential concerns, perceptions and information needs, and preferences for communication. Additional research was conducted to identify non-profit organizations and other agencies that serve the African American population.

Demographics

According to NASA Glenn Research Center's Environmental Justice Plan (1996), the African American community in Sandusky comprises approximately 20% of the city's overall population of 30,000 (about 6,000 people), located primarily within six census tracts. Between 14% and 35% of the population within these six tracts is African American. Three tracts have at least 20%, with most of this population living in southern and eastern neighborhoods.

In general, most of these streets located within the six census tracts are near Columbus Avenue, Milan Road and Cleveland Road. The largest of these census tracts, (#410, 35.4% African American) is located on the south side of Sandusky and is bordered by the Conrail tracks to the north (adjacent to South Depot Street), running south along Camp Street to Perkins Avenue. It is also bordered by Harrison Avenue to the west and Columbus Ave. (Route 4) to the east; and it includes portions of Buchanan, Clay, Filmore, Forest (North, South, East), Johnson, McDonough, Pierce, Shelby and Taylor Streets.

The second largest tract (#412, 32% African American) is to the east of Tract #410 and is bordered by Columbus Ave. to the west and Cleveland Road to the east, Butler Street to the north and Perkins Ave. to the south. It also includes portions of, E. Parish Street, Huntington Ave., Milan Road (US 250) and Wamajo Drive. The third tract (#407, 20.3 %) is located to the northeast and is bordered by Cleveland Road (Route 6) to the south and west, First Street to the north and E. Farwell to the east. It also includes portions of Larchmont, McKinley, Perry and Sycamore Lane.

There is also a small African American population in Perkins Township, where all racial minorities comprise 6-7 % of the population, with the largest group being African American. According to interviewees, there are two small and primarily African American neighborhoods, Holmesville and Searsville, in Perkins Township. They are located in the northern part of the township near Perkins Avenue, the dividing line between Sandusky and Perkins.

Employment and Housing

According to two people interviewed, Sandusky's black population grew substantially in the years after World War II, when many African Americans migrated from the South to find work in several small steel mills that were then operating in Sandusky. These mills are now closed but

both black and white workers alike found primarily blue-collar employment in the automotive industry. Some of the larger employers of African Americans in the Sandusky area have been, and remain, the Ford Motor/Visteon Automotive plant on Tiffin Avenue (Sandusky), Delphi Chassis Systems in Perkins Township, and the Glidden paint and the Lear manufacturing facilities in Huron.

Three interviewees mentioned Sandusky's history of a lack of affordable housing (ownership) for all residents. One interviewee estimated that only 12% of African Americans in the city are homeowners; thus, most low to moderate income families live in privately owned apartments. Sandusky is also home to approximately 150 public housing units, administered through the Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority. Most of these are "scattered site" rentals, consisting of approximately 125 single-family units throughout the city. There are also some 25 units of duplex, "garden apartment" housing. There is also a high-rise building with 157 units for elderly tenants.

### Awareness and Perceptions

Interviewees were asked about African American community awareness of NASA Plum Brook Station operations, the existence of the Reactor Facility and NASA's plans to decommission the facility. They were also asked about perceptions of NASA, and possible information needs related to the project. Finally, interviewees were asked about preferences for communication i.e., frequency and methods.

All the interviewees were aware of Plum Brook Station's existence. Four interviewees, all Sandusky area natives, had been aware of the facility for decades and they have had contact over the past few years with Plum Brook Station General Manager Bob Kozar. All had visited Plum Brook at some point in time, but had only a generalized knowledge of operations there, with one observing that, "all I knew was that they dealt with space." All six also knew about the Reactor Facility and one interviewee had worked there until it was closed. Only one person was unaware of NASA's plans for decommissioning. When asked how they learned about decommissioning, interviewees cited receiving something in the mail from NASA (two), newspaper advertisements or articles (two) or contact with current NASA employees. Two interviewees had attended Community Workgroup meetings but no others had attended a NASA event on decommissioning.

Perceptions regarding the overall African American community's awareness of decommissioning was mixed. Two interviewees felt the African American community was generally aware of Plum Brook Station and the Reactor Facility, while two others felt the community would have little if any knowledge of the plans for decommissioning. One person observed that "on a scale of 1 to 10," African American knowledge of decommissioning was "about a 1.5." Another believed that while there was a "broad spectrum," of knowledge among the white population living near Plum Brook Station, "the black community is at one extreme or the other. Either a few people know a lot (about decommissioning) and have confidence that it will be done right by NASA and the regulatory agencies... or there are others who are completely ignorant," about the project.

### **Information Needs and Preferences**

The interviewees were given copies of the June 1999 fact sheet that described NASA's intent to decommission the closed Reactor Facility. After reading the fact sheet, they had several questions, including (in order of mention):

- Job opportunities
- Health and safety concerns
- Where the waste will be disposed
- Environmental issues
- Economic impacts
- Waste removal
- Transportation routes
- The decontamination process
- The project schedule

After reading about radioactive waste in the alternatives section of the fact sheet, one interviewee remarked “this is serious,” and noted that “people in Toledo were up in arms,” regarding the Perry nuclear plant. He also said the Sandusky black community “does not tend to get up in arms...but this is scary.” Once this interviewee was told of the differences between the low level waste of a small reactor closed for nearly 30 years - versus a large, active power reactor - he seemed more reassured but still felt the community would regard health impacts as “a major concern,” and would ask “will (decommissioning) affect the air, water and land?” He also felt the community would ask “what will the long term effects (of decommissioning) be 50 years from now?”

One interviewee, who formerly worked at Plum Brook Station, remarked that several waste disposal facilities “are located near black neighborhoods.” This interviewee added, “I understand decommissioning,” but said her neighbors would ask questions such as, “Would it affect the land? Would it affect farmers? What will happen to me as a taxpayer?” But another interviewee felt that radiation would not be a concern, believing that many of his fellow community members “do not perceive of (decommissioning) as a health hazard. Many of them do not understand radiation and those that do...will be confident that there will be no exposure problem.” Another interviewee felt people would want to know “where else (decommissioning) had been done and was it successful.” In response to these questions, he was given copies of the Decommissioning Success Stories fact sheet.

In contrast to the individuals who were interviewed during the summer of 1999 (and were all Caucasian), four people interviewed for this update put economic issues on a par with health and safety concerns. Two asked about the effect of the project on their taxes, and two more asked about the prospect of jobs that might be generated by the project. One noted that the term “decommissioning” seemed to connote job loss, saying, “I’m always concerned about economic destabilization.” Another felt people would ask, “If there’s decommissioning work, can I benefit?” This interviewee went on to say that other African Americans’ “primary concern will be ‘is there work?’... They’re not concerned about safety. They’ll have confidence that NASA or whoever will do what they have to do to make it safe.” Another felt that, because Plum Brook Station is “where it is...(decommissioning) would not affect (the health of) African Americans.”

### Sources of Information

Interviewees were asked what sources of information would be considered most reliable or would be preferred for communicating decommissioning information. In contrast to the interviews conducted in 1999, these interviewees were mixed in their opinions of whether NASA employees would be considered reliable sources of information on decommissioning. One felt that the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland provides information to Plum Brook Station “indirectly,” but that “a lot of that information is filtered.” Another remarked that he once asked two NASA employees about their work and found them “very secretive.” Two others felt the employees could be good sources, but did not feel that NASA gave the employees a lot of

information to work with. Likewise, these interviewees felt African American community members were less confident about government agencies as sources of information on health and safety, and the environment than the earlier interviewees.

Two interviewees expressed more confidence in colleges or universities as sources of information with one citing the community's relationship with BGSU Firelands and another suggesting "a sanctioned, private group...like Ralph Nader's. His group relates well to African Americans." This person also remarked, "people are skeptical of government." In contrast, another said he had a good experience working with a representative of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He reasoned that "government agencies do a good job at what they do, but they do not provide a lot of public awareness." This view is consistent with research on the trust and credibility of information sources suggesting that how much information a source is perceived as providing is directly related to their credibility as an information source.

### Print and Electronic Media

Four interviewees cited the Sandusky Register as a primary channel of information, with two specifically mentioning a weekly column written by the Revered Doctor Rufus Sanders, a local pastor. (The opinion column tends to focus on national issues of concern to African Americans). One other person mentioned the (Lorain) Morning Journal and the Wall Street Journal as a personal, preferred source of information and another said he got most of his news from watching CNN. Three people also cited local radio stations WLEC and WGGN, noting that each carries a half-hour Sunday program for local churches. One interviewee said community members listen to black oriented stations in Toledo (FM 95.7 and 93.1) and Cleveland (FM 98.1) but do not listen to local stations.

### Churches

There was unanimous agreement that the city's 20+ black churches were the primary communications vehicle in the community "for news ...and gossip." One said church bulletins "tend to be like newspapers," in the African American community while another termed them "an excellent source of information...maybe the number one source." One person mentioned that a health organization had recently run an announcement on a screening program in a church bulletin and that placing information in church bulletins would be an effective means of communicating. He also noted that several churches would be amenable to publishing NASA announcements.

### Fact Sheets

Two interviewees felt that fact sheets or "published information" would not be effective means of communication with the African American community. Another interviewee commented that the fact sheets contained "too much information" and suggested that the literature "cut to the nitty gritty." This sentiment was echoed by a third person, who said "the layout is too complicated...technical," and suggested that NASA "simplify them. Make them easier to read...Focus in on what you want to say."

### Community Workgroup

Interviewees were asked about a Community Workgroup as a means of sharing information and receiving feedback on decommissioning. All felt the Workgroup was a good idea but some interviewees felt that, because the project was not located near their community, there was no sense of urgency about joining the Workgroup. One person felt that while "it's nice to have a

Community Workgroup, (the African American community) will not be interested unless there are jobs involved.” Another felt the Workgroup was “worth a try...people like to be asked their opinion,” but also did not believe such a group would attract much African American participation. A third asked if there had been “public hearings” on the project, and when told that Workgroup meetings and Community Information Sessions had been advertised as open to the public, he responded “as you actually do what you’re going to do, people will get involved...once (people) see a (waste) truck, the right person who has not been contacted will bring it up.” Two interviewees said they might potentially be interested in joining as members but cited current, heavy work and community schedules.

The interviewees were asked for recommendations on potential new Workgroup members, with one person suggesting that new members not be recognized members of the community, but instead be drawn from the ranks of “people who work nine to five.” Two people mentioned Deborah Saunders Sparks (formerly Deborah Alex-Saunders), who is active in minority housing and environmental issues, and one suggested Jeanette (Murphy) Henson, a Sandusky elementary school principal who is active in local civic and business life. Two interviewees actively involved with their churches also offered the use of their church halls for a Workgroup meeting.

## **Channels of Communication and Frequency**

### Churches

Community members interviewed suggested a number of vehicles for communicating information on decommissioning. In contrast to earlier interviewees, all six said the local community churches were the most effective means of providing information. One interviewee said the churches were “our heritage,” and “a traditional vehicle” for communicating all types of information important to the community. Three people suggested the possibility of addressing a church congregation before a service begins, explaining that many churches in the community allow visitors to make announcements. One interviewee mentioned that many churches hold services at 11 A.M., with a fifteen-minute period preceding it for community announcements, and added, “a lot of politicians will go to four or five churches on a Sunday.”

Three people said at least one church makes community announcements on the air during a Sunday morning on-air service. Three others mentioned the possibility of making fact sheets or other literature available in church foyers, saying that this is common practice in the African American community. Also, four people mentioned church socials or dinners as a means of communicating information, either by making an announcement or leaving literature.

Three people suggested the possibility of a church social or a meeting of a group of ministers with “breakfast or lunch,” as a means of communicating information on decommissioning.” One interviewee felt this would be a better approach than having a NASA meeting at one church, suggesting that the churches compete for leadership within the community and that NASA should “be careful of one-upsmanship,” adding, “you’d be better off talking to a forum of ministers...at a school facility.” In spite of this sentiment, one interviewee felt that former Workgroup member, Reverend Thomas Darden of Saint Stephen’s AME Church and the Reverend Doctor Rufus Sanders, Pastor of Emmanuel Temple Pentecostal Church had great credibility within the community. This interviewee explained that “in the 1970’s and 1980’s,” Pastor Darden was Sandusky’s “ex officio mayor,” while serving as a City Commissioner. [Currently, there is one African American elected official in Erie County, Sandusky City Commissioner, William “Al” Mason, who also owns a local construction company].

### Other Vehicles of Communication

Interviewees suggested a number of communications vehicles in addition to those mentioned above. One interviewee, a middle school science teacher, suggested a tour of Plum Brook Station. He wanted the tour as part of a Career Day in April, during which his students visit several local businesses and organizations and ask their hosts questions about science and technology. [The teacher was told that there probably was not adequate time for such a tour this year, but that the suggestion would be brought to NASA's attention].

Two other interviewees suggested that decommissioning information might be made available at two dinners that attract a large African American following. They are the Citizens Coalition, which is working to bring an African American youth center to Sandusky, and the annual NAACP dinner. Two interviewees noted that the NAACP also publishes a monthly newsletter that could be a vehicle for decommissioning information and three people noted that several companies and organizations utilize both the NAACP and black churches as a means of communicating job opportunities. Two others mentioned a local sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, to which many African American professional women belong. One interviewee suggested that NASA contact a Sandusky organization known as SAPSI, an African American teachers alliance, while two others mentioned the "Eastern Stars" Masonic Temple in Sandusky.

There were less formal suggestions as well. One interviewee noted the influence of a local take out restaurant, Cliff's Carry Out, suggesting that flyers or other material be left at the store. He also suggested contacting the Crystal Room, a function hall rented by several African American organizations. Two others noted that the local bowling alleys, the Cedar Lanes and Star Lanes, also attract a substantial African American clientele.

Finally, several community-based organizations were identified as intermediaries for reaching the African American community. These include: the Erie-Huron County Community Action Commission (CAC), a multiservice agency with program areas ranging from Head Start to recycling; the African American Alternative Center, which ministers to youthful offenders; the Center for Cultural Awareness (directed by NASA Community Workgroup member Ethel Roldan), which serves an older and multiracial, at risk population; and the Sandusky chapter of the NAACP.

### **Near Neighbor Stakeholder Identification**

As part of updating the Community Relations Plan (Addendum No.1) and in preparation for the start of decommissioning, FOCUS GROUP conducted a site visit to characterize the population in the immediate vicinity of Plum Brook Station (PBS). The purpose of this activity was to ensure that residences, businesses, and other areas/organizations within the immediate vicinity of the perimeter of PBS were identified. Identification of so-called "near neighbors" in the vicinity of PBS will facilitate communication during decommissioning activities and provide an opportunity for directly communicating with this subgroup of the overall Erie County population.

While the transportation routes for waste to be removed during decommissioning have not yet been determined, NASA intends to minimize impacts to the surrounding community to the extent possible. To accomplish this, NASA hopes to route trucks through the large land area within PBS before exiting the facility, then travel on US Route 250 for as short a distance as possible prior to accessing the Ohio Turnpike. Safety of the public, workers and the environment is NASA's number one goal for decommissioning. Adhering to strict transportation safety requirements and

working with local officials throughout the decommissioning process is a part of NASA's plans for safe decommissioning.

The following identification of near neighbors is described in relation to the gates surrounding PBS, starting with the Main Gate at 6100 Columbus Avenue (adjacent to Taylor Road) in Perkins Township. The Main Gate is labeled Gate #1. The other gates are labeled in descending order and follow a route south down US 250 (Milan Road) from Bogart Road to the Ohio Turnpike. Where possible, the population within approximately 0.5 and 1.5 miles of the gate/fenceline is provided. The distance from the gate to US Route 250 is also noted.

#### **Gate #1 -- 6100 Columbus Avenue (Main Gate, adjacent to Taylor Road)**

This gate is located in Perkins Township, about 1.5 miles down Bogart and Taylor Roads, from US 250. The "nearest neighbors" include: Taylor Road, Cambridge Circle, Columbus Avenue and Botay Road

**Taylor Road:** There are residential properties near the PBS Main Gate and fence line. Approximately **20 houses**, on either side of Taylor Road, are within **0.5 miles** of the Main Gate. Within **1.5 miles** of the Main Gate, there are a total of approximately **50 houses**, along with a farm and an apartment complex, on Taylor Road.

**Cambridge Circle:** Located northwest of the Main Gate within **0.5 miles** of the gate. There are a total of **25 houses** on Cambridge Circle, with the odd numbered houses bordering the Plum Brook Station fence.

**Columbus Avenue:** In the area leading from Taylor Road to Cambridge Circle, there are **10 houses within 0.5 miles** of the Main Gate. The populated area of Columbus Avenue lies north of the Main Gate. There are approximately **50 homes on Columbus Avenue**, located between the **1.5-mile** stretch between Bogart Road and the Main Gate.

**Botay Road:** There is one house located on Botay Road, which connects Bogart to Taylor.

#### **Gate #2 -- Fox Road**

Located in Perkins Township, about 3 miles south down Milan Road (US 250) from Bogart Road. The distance from the Fox Road (West) gate to US 250 is about 0.6 miles.

The nearest neighbor to the Fox Road (West) gate is located approximately **0.25 miles** from the gate – the Erie County Conservation League (7519 Milan Road). The League has one main building, two sheds and an outdoor shooting area that is fenced off and gated.

On the side opposite the PBS gate (going east on Fox Road), there are about **15 neighbors** (3 farms, 12 houses) within approximately **1.5 miles**. There is one business (Entratech Systems) near the corner of East Fox and US 250.

#### **Gate #3 -- Scheid Road**

Located in Milan Township, about 2.5 miles south, down US 250 from Fox Road.

The Scheid Road (West) PBS gate is about 1 mile from US 250. There are no near neighbors on this stretch of Scheid Road, only fields.

The nearest neighbor to the Scheid Road gate is **Saint John's Lutheran Church**, which is located approximately **1 mile** away on Scheid Road (East) at the corner of US 250. Within **1.75 miles** of the gate, traveling east of US 250 on Scheid Road, there are a dozen neighbors (**2 farms, 10 houses**).

#### **Gate #4 -- Mason Road (West)**

Located in Milan Township near Oxford Township, about 3 miles south of Scheid Road, down US 250 (approximately 0.5 miles from the Ohio Turnpike).

The Mason Road gate is the closest gate to the Ohio turnpike. The gate is just a few feet off Mason Road, about 1.25 miles west from US 250, on the odd numbered side of the street at the Milan-Oxford Township line. Then nearest neighbor is the US Army Reserve Center, which is directly next door to the gate. Approximately **20 neighbors** are located **within a mile** of PBS (both east and west of the gate) on a two-mile stretch of Mason Road that starts at US 250 and goes west past the PBS gate, and into Oxford Township.

Exiting the gate east on Mason Road (on the PBS side of the road) toward US 250 - past the Army Reserve Center - is one house and the Sandusky Outlet Mall. The mall has two buildings with about 8 businesses in them. A church (New Covenant Lighthouse Ministry) is also located in the mall. On the side of Mason Road opposite the PBS gate, headed toward US 250, is a small farm, the EHOVE Career Center and an Erie County Court building. At the corner of Mason and US 250 are a McDonald's, a Comfort Inn, a gas station and a Subway store.

Within **0.5 miles** of the PBS gate, but west of it in Oxford Township, are 2 farms and 9 houses, 3 of which are under construction.

### **Section 3.2: Chronology of Plum Brook Station's Community Outreach**

Since the Community Relations Plan (CRP) was finalized in September 1999, NASA has implemented an extensive community outreach program consisting of many of the activities referenced in the CRP. To date, specific outreach activities include the following.

#### **➤ Plum Brook Station Open House**

On October 30, 1999, NASA Plum Brook Station held an Open House, which was attended by more than 4,300 Ohio residents – the majority of them from Erie County. The Open House featured a series of displays on NASA's plans for Decommissioning. NASA staff and contractors were present at each display to explain information and answer questions. A significant number of people who attended the Open House visited the displays and spoke with NASA experts, who answered their questions and concerns. A model of the existing reactor facility also drew a lot of interest from the attendees.

The Open House also enabled members of the public to tour the unique and active Plum Brook Station facilities, including the Spacecraft Propulsion, Hypersonic Tunnel and Cryogenic Tank facilities, along with the Space Power Facility -- the world's largest space environment test chamber -- able to simulate the vacuum temperatures and solar environment of space. Science experiments for children and the chance to meet astronaut Mike Foreman were other highlights of the Open House. The event was advertised in

five Erie County newspapers and through Public Service Announcements (PSA's) aired on radio stations in the Cleveland and Sandusky areas.

➤ **Plum Brook Station Media Tour**

NASA hosted a Media Tour of Plum Brook Station on October 29, prior to the Open House. Representatives from a dozen media organizations heard presentations by Plum Brook Station General Manager Bob Kozar, and NASA Glenn External Affairs Director John Hairston, about the activities of and plan for PBS – including decommissioning. Decommissioning Project Manager Tim Polich was present to answer questions on Decommissioning. Media representatives toured both the Decommissioning display and the active PBS facilities. Both the Open House and the Decommissioning Plans were the subjects of favorable articles in the Sandusky Register and Cleveland Plain Dealer, and Associated Press coverage of the event was carried in newspapers throughout Ohio.

➤ **Community Information Sessions**

On November 3, 1999 and October 17, 2000, NASA hosted Community Information Sessions (CIS) at BGSU Firelands. Members of the public had an opportunity to tour a series of text and visual displays and ask questions and express concerns to NASA personnel and contractors staffing the displays. Approximately 30 people attended the 1999 CIS and over 50 members of the public attended the 2000 session. The October 2000 Community Information Session also included a PowerPoint presentation narrated by NASA Glenn Public Affairs Specialist Sally Harrington and a newly created video on the project that ran continuously for viewers. Evaluations of each CIS indicated that the public felt the sessions were a good way to get information out to the public. Participants also took note of NASA's emphasis on safety in each aspect of the Decommissioning project and the accessibility of NASA staff to answer their questions. People completing the questionnaire were also impressed by the different information vehicles used by NASA -- especially the slide presentation and accompanying narration.

The Community Information Sessions were advertised in five Erie County newspapers, via PSA's on area radio stations and an interview with Sally Harrington on WLEC-AM in Sandusky. NASA plans at least one Community Information Session per year, adding updated display material and new locations throughout Erie County.

➤ **Fact Sheets**

Since June 1999, NASA has produced six (6) fact sheets dealing with various aspects of NASA's plans for Decommissioning. The fact sheets include:

- The History of Plum Brook Station (June 1999)
- We Want You to Know, an Introduction to Decommissioning (June 1999)
- Transporting Low-Level Radioactive Waste (September 1999)
- The Environmental Assessment for Decommissioning the Reactor Facility (April 2000)
- Decommissioning Success Stories (October 2000)
- Results of NASA's Environmental Assessment (January 2001)

Copies of each fact sheet have been made available to the public at libraries throughout Erie County, distributed to attendees at NASA events, maintained at the Community Information Bank (on Decommissioning) at the BGSU Firelands Library and they can be accessed on NASA's web site. They are also available to the public upon request.

➤ **Community Information Bank**

In January 2000, NASA established a Community Information Bank (CIB) at the BGSU Firelands Library. The CIB serves as a permanent repository of information on the Decommissioning project. NASA continually updates the information in the CIB, which currently contains:

- Fact sheets
- PSA's on NASA events
- Copies of NASA's Decommissioning Plan (submitted to the NRC in December 1999 and available in hard copy and on CD ROM)
- Copy of Decommissioning Community Relations Plan (1999) and Addendum (2001)
- Copies of articles on Decommissioning
- Minutes from meetings of NASA's Community Workgroup on Decommissioning
- Copies of NASA's Environmental Assessment (January 2001)
- NASA's response to NRC comments on the Decommissioning Plan and revisions to the Plan (March 2001)

All information at the CIB is available to the public upon request.

➤ **Community Workgroup**

In October 1999, NASA established a Community Workgroup for the Decommissioning project. The Workgroup serves as a vehicle by which NASA communicates information on Decommissioning while providing Workgroup members and the larger community an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns. The Workgroup consists of 12 to 16 members; residents of Erie County who represent a variety of constituencies including: nearby neighbors of PBS, public safety officials, health and education professionals and members of the area's environmental and minority communities. Workgroup members are active in many aspects of community life and are expected to provide project information to their constituents and community members.

Workgroup meetings have been held quarterly since November 1999 and may be held more frequently as Decommissioning activity increases. The first six meetings were held at BGSU Firelands. The seventh meeting was planned for at the EHOVE Career Center in Milan. NASA is committed to holding future meetings at locations throughout Erie County. All meetings are open to the public and are advertised in area newspapers and through PSA's on local radio stations.

➤ **Decommissioning Website**

In August 2000, NASA established a Decommissioning Website at [www.grc.nasa.gov/www/pbrf](http://www.grc.nasa.gov/www/pbrf). Some of the information available on the website includes the following:

- Background Information on Plum Brook Station
- Decommissioning Fact Sheets
- Video on Decommissioning
- Decommissioning Plan
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary of Terms
- List of Community Workgroup Members
- Information on Radiation Monitoring and Public Safety
- Links to Federal and State Agencies

The website is updated regularly.

➤ **Mailing List and Mailings**

NASA has developed a mailing list with more than 1,300 names, including local residents, community organizations, churches and county and municipal officials. The list is continually updated and was first used to invite the community to the Plum Brook Station Open House in October 1999. The mailing list was used most recently in February 2001, when NASA distributed more than 1,300 combination postcard/magnets.

➤ **Postcard/Magnets**

NASA did a mass mailing of a magnet laminated to a postcard providing information on NASA's community outreach efforts in support of the Decommissioning project and to inform the community about the availability of a website on the decommissioning project. The website was a recommendation of the Community Workgroup and a preferred means of communication by many of the people interviewed for the CRP. The postcard also lists a variety of ways the public can get information on Decommissioning, including the website, Community Workgroup, Community Information Bank, fact sheets, NASA speakers and presentations, Community Information Sessions (CIS) and Open Houses. The postcards also contain a contact person for additional information: Sally Harrington - by phone at (216) 433-2037 and E-mail at [s.harrington@grc.nasa.gov](mailto:s.harrington@grc.nasa.gov).

➤ **Video**

NASA has produced a video, which addresses the history of Plum Brook Station, the reasons for decommissioning the closed Reactor Facility and NASA's plans for Decommissioning. The video was introduced at the October 2000 CIS and received a very positive response from attendees. The video is available for showing to schools and community groups by contacting Sally Harrington (see above).

➤ **Slide Presentation**

NASA has also produced a PowerPoint slide presentation on Decommissioning, which also debuted to positive response at the October 2000 CIS. A NASA person who is available to answer specific questions narrates this presentation, which is also available to schools and organizations by contacting Sally Harrington.

➤ **Speakers Upon Request**

Pending the availability of staff, NASA will provide speakers upon request to civic, community and school organizations throughout the Decommissioning. The speakers may also show the Slide or Video Presentation. To request a speaker, the public should contact Sally Harrington at (216) 433-2037 or [s.harrington@grc.nasa.gov](mailto:s.harrington@grc.nasa.gov).